Limited parcel booking facility

1723. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN:
SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways in its recent decision limited the parcel booking facility to stations where trains stop for five minutes or more;

(b) if so, the details of stations which have been excluded from the parcel booking services, State-wise;

(c) whether it has been brought to the notice of Government, the difficulties caused to local traders and farmers due to this decision;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government would consider to review the decision; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (f) In the larger public interest and for the convenience and safety of travelling public, maintenance of punctuality of trains and reduction in the transit time of parcels, booking and carriage of parcel traffic was rationalised in February, 2004. While State-wise details are not maintained, no specific station has been closed for parcel traffic due to the rationalisation. However, the rationalisation does not permit booking of parcels by such Mail/Express trains which have stoppage time of less than five (5) minutes at intermediate stations to avoid over-carriage of parcels and maintaining punctuality of trains. This restriction does not apply to Ordinary Passenger trains. Representations have been received from traders and farmers against rationalisation of booking and carriage of parcel traffic. However, in the interest of travelling public and also in the interest of trade, it is not feasible to withdraw the rationalisation which is aimed to reduce the overall transit time of parcels through end-to-end movement by different trains providing faster and better services. Luggage has, however, been exempted from the rationalisation.

Rail Neer

1724. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN:
SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state: (a) whether there is any proposal to set up units for the expansion of production and supply of mineral water under the brand name "Rail Neer";

(b) if so, the details of States in which production units of Rail Neer are proposed to be established;

(c) whether Government received any request from Members of Parliament for considering Kerala for setting up of factory in South India; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the stand of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRIR. » VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In the first phase, Indian Railway Catering & Tourism Corporation Ltd. (IRCTC) has set up two rail neer Plants one at Nangloi (Delhi) and the other at Danapur (Bihar). These two plants are now producing Rail neer meeting the requirement of rail passengers of Northern and Eastern States of the country. Location of future plants in other regions will be considered by IRCTC depending upon the feasibility and requirement.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Introducing technology and communication

1725. DR. T.5UBBARAMI REDDY Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a bid to reduce railway accidents Government was investing in providing latest technology and communication system;

(b) if so, whether recently a two-day seminar on "Signalling and Telecommunications System" on Indian Railways was held;

(c) if so, to what extent new technology is being introduced in Railways, and

(d) if so, to what extent new technology introduced in Railways have helped for checking railway accidents in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A two days national seminar on "Signalling & Telecommunication